

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 IO-10 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

AGR-05 CU-02 OES-03 TAR-01 (ISO) W

----- 090976

R 181600Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4816

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 18499

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEC, EX, TC, PFOR, GW

SUBJ: EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE: THE LAST SESSION, AND THE NEXT

REF: (A) ROME 16874; (B) ROME 18181

SUMMARY: A SMALL EC DELEGATION IS IN CAIRO TO BEGIN
DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ARAB LEAGUE ON THE AGENDA AND
TIMING OF THE NEXT SESSION (TARGETTED FOR EARLY SPRING,
1975) OF THE DIALOGUE, WHICH WILL BE AT THE GENERAL
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COMMISSION LEVEL. THE "EUROPEAN SIDE" WILL BE WORKING,

UNDER INSTRUCTIONS AND BY CONVICTION, TO MONOMIZE POSSIBLE POLITICAL CONTANT IN THE GENERAL COMMISSION SESSION, AND TO MAXIMIZE PROGRESS ON THOSE SPECIFIC AREAS OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION SO FAR IDENTIFIED BY THE EXPERTS. SUCH AN APPROACH WILL BE FULLY COMPATIBLE WITH THE GENERAL THRUST OF THE EUROPEAN SIDE UNDER THE ITALIAN PRESIDENCY. END SUMMARY.

1. IN ONE OF THE FINAL ACTS OF ITS EC PRESIDENCY, THE GOI IS LEADING A SMALL EC DELEGATION TO CAIRO ON DECEMBER 18 FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ARAB LEAGURE ON AN AGENDA FOR THE NEXT SESSION OF THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE, ALREADY AGREED TO BE AT THE GENERAL COMMISSION (CHIEFS OF DELEGATION/AMBASSADORIAL) LEVEL, PROBABLY IN LUXEMBOURG NEEAR THE END OF MARCH, 1976. THE DELEGATION IS LED BY THE MFA'S AMBASSADOR CESARE RAGARD, AND INCLUDES THE EC COMMISSION'S KLAUS MEYER AS WELL AS JEAN WAGNER, LUXEMBOURG'S AMBASSADOR TO ITALY, WHO WILL SUCCEED REGARD WHEN LUXEMBOURG ASSUMES THE PRESIDENCY IN JANUARY, 1976.

2. ACCORDING TO SOURCES IN THE MFA, THE DELEGATION IS ANTICIPATING A STRONG ARAB PUSH TO INCLUDE DISCUSSION OF POLITICAL MATTERS IN THE UPCOMING GENERAL COMMISSION, THE FIRST SESSION OF THE DIALOGUE AT THAT SOMEWHAT ELEVATED LEVEL. THE FUNDAMENTAL EUROPEAN POSITION, HOWEVER, AS SET FORTH IN A REPORT BY AMBASSADOR REGARD TO FOREIGN MINISTER RUMOR ON NOVEMBER 28, CONCERNING THE ABU DHABI SESSION AND THE DECEMBER NEGOTIATIONS IN CAIRO, WILL BE BOTH NEGATIVE AND NECESSARILY DILATORY. REGARD REPORTED THAT AT THE FIRST "HIGH-LEVEL" SESSION OF THE DIALOGUE (PARIS, JULY, 1974), UNDER THE FRENCH PRESIDENCY, FONMIN SAUVAGNARGUES "EXCLUDED THE POSSIBILITY OF ADDRESSING (IN THE DIALOGUE) ANY OF THE ASPECTS RELEVANT TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST." REGARD FURTHER WROTE "THE COMMON POSITION OF THE NINE REMAINS THAT ENUNCIATED BY SAUVAGNARGUES" AND THAT HE, REGARD, WOULD ADHERE TO THE POSITION IN THE NEXT CONTACTS IN CAIRO WITH ARAB LEAGUE SECGEN RIAD. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT SUCH A POSITION, NO MATTER HOW WELL PRESENTED AND ARGUED, IS UNLIKELY TO SATISFY RIAD. "IT WILL BE NECESSARY IN ANY EVENT TO TAKE NOTE OF (RIAD'S) VIEWS AND, AFTER HAVING STUDIED THEM AT THE LEVEL OF (EC) POLITICAL COOPERATION, TO

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FORMULATE RELEVANT COUNTERPROPOSALS TO BE AGREED AMONG THE NINE, LIKELY AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL". HE RECOUNTED HAVING TOLD RIAD THAT THIS QUESTION COULD NOT BE SETTLED ON THE BASE OF A SINGLE CONTACT. THE PROCESS WOULD REQUIRE SOME TIME, "MONTHS RATHER THAN WEEKS".

3. REGARD'S ACCOUNTING TO RUMOR CONFIRMS THAT, ALTHOUGH BOTH SIDES WERE SATISFIED WITH THE OUTCOME OF THE ABU DHABI MEETING,

THE SUCCESS WAS IN SPITE OF ARAB POLITICAL PRESSURES AND BECAUSE OF SOME FANCY FOOTWORK ON THE PART OF THE ITALIAN PRESIDENCY. ALTHOUGH RIAD HIMSELF ADHERED TO HIS EARLIER AGREEMENT (PARA. 3 F, RAF A) NOT TO ATTEMPT DEALING WITH THE PROBLEMS OF THE GENERAL COMMISSION UNTIL AFTER RPT AFTER THE ABU DHABI MEETING, HIS ARAB COLLEAGUES, IN THEIR OPENING REMARKS AT ABU DHABI, IN THE FORRIDORS AND IN THE DRAFTING OF THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE INSISTED THAT THERE SHOULD BE "AN EQUILIBRIUM" IN THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN POLITICAL AND TECHNICAL THEMES. IN THE END, SAYS REGARD, "THERE WAS NO CONCESSION ON THE EUROPEAN PART. THE FORMULATIONS (OF THE COMMUNIQUE) DO NOT IN FACT CONTAIN ANY INNOVATION" GOING BEYOND THE WORDING OF THE COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWING MEETINGS IN CAIRO AND ROME IN JUNE AND JULY OF THIS YEAR. MAKING THE POINT AGAIN, REGARD NOTES THAT "ON NO OCCASION DID THE EUROPEAN DELEGATION GIVE EVEN A MINIMAL INDICATION OF BEING DISPOSED TO DEAL WITH POLITICAL SUBJECT IN THE DIALOGUE."

4. MFA SOURCES TELL US, WITH SOME SELF-SATISFACTION, ANDREGARD'S REPORT CONFIRMS, (PARA 3, REF B), THAT WITH RIAD'S TACIT CONCURRENCE THE EUROPEAN SIDE WAS ABLE TO WARD OFF THE POLITICAL THRUSTS AT ABU DHABI WITH THE ITALIAN-DEVELOPED FORMULATION THAT ABU DHABI WOULD BE LIMITED TO TECHNICAL EXCHANGES, WITH DISCUSSION OF THE GENERAL COMMISSION AGENDA TO TAKE PLACE SUBSEQUENTLY. REGARD NOTES THE CLEAR UNDERSTANDING ON BOTH SIDES THAT THE SETTING OF A DATE FOR THE GENERAL COMMISSION SESSION IS DEPENDENT UPON AGREEMENT ON THE AGENDA, A QUESTION WHICH "IS OBVIOUSLY COMPLEX AND DELICATE, IT BEING EVIDENT THAT A LACK OF AGREEMENT WOULD AFFECT NOT ONLY THE POSSIBILITY OF CONVENING THE GENERAL COMMISSION BUT ALSO THE CONTINUATION OF THE DIALOGUE." REGARD ALSO POINTED OUT TO RIAD THAT LUXEMBOURG WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO

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PLAY HOST TO THE NEXT DIALOGUE SESSION "BEFORE MARCH, NOT IN APRIL AND POSSIBLY IN MAY". GIVEN THE DESIRE ON BOTH SIDES TO MOVE AHEAD, A MARCH DATE SEEMS HIGHLY PROBABLE.

5. REGARDING THE ADOPTION OF THE "DUBLIN" FORMULA FOR THE GENERAL COMMISSION MEETING, REGARD REPORTS BRIEFLY THAT THE ARABS ACCEPTED IN FULL UNDERSTANDING THAT IT WAS THE ONLY BASIS ACCEPTABLE TO THE EUROPEANS TO GET AROUND THE PROBLEM OF A PLO PRESENCE SO IDENTIFIED.

6. IF THE EUROPEAN VIEW PREVAILS IN THE GENERAL COMMISSION, THE FORMAT WOULD CALL FOR AN IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING MEETING OF EXPERTS. THE

GENERAL COMMISSION WOULD THEN REVIEW THE RESULTS OF EXPERT'S WORK AT THAT TIME (CAIRO, ROME, ABU DHABI AND LUXEMBOURG), WOULD DISCUSS AND POINT THE WAY TO THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DIALOGUE AND MIGHT DEAL WITH SPECIFIC POINTS, SUCH AS APPROVING ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIALIZED SUB-GROUPS, AS RECOMMENDED AT ABU DHABI. THE COMMISSION MIGHT ALSO DEAL WITH THE QUESTION SO FAR LARGELY IGNORED: WHO WILL PAY WHAT SHARE OF THE BILL FOR SPECIFIC UNDERTAKINGS. REGARD REPORTS THAT THE EC IS INCLINED TO ESTABLISH A FUND TO PAY FOR FEASIBILITY STUDIES BUT NOTES THAT THE ARABS ARE LIKELY TO INSIST ON EUROPEAN INVESTMENTS BEYOND THE SYMBOLIC, EVEN IF "MONOR".

7. AS REPORTED ELSEWHERE, THE MOST MARKED ADVANCES AT ABU DHABI WERE IN THE SECTORS OF INDUSTRIALIZATION, INFRASTRUCTURE, AGRICULTURE, CULTURE AND, TO A LESSER EXTENT, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

8. THE STICKY POINTS WERE:

A) TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY, WHICH THE ARABS WANT TO INSTITUTIONALIZE UNDER FAVORABLE TERMS BUT WHICH THE EUROPEANS CAN'T GO ALONG WITH SINCE THEY CONSIDER TECHNOLOGY AS ANY OTHER "MERCHANDISE", AND LARGELY IN PRIVATE HANDS.
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B) FINANCIAL COOPERATION. THE ARABS WOULD LIKE SPECIAL GUARANTEES TO PROTECT THEIR OWN INVESTMENTS WITHOUT TAKING INTO ACCOUNT EITHER THE LIMITATIONS OF THE EUROPEAN FINANCIAL AND MONETARY SYSTEM, OR OF GENERAL INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS IN THIS FIELD.

C) LABOR. THE ARABS PROPOSED, BUT THE EUROPEANS MANAGED TO AVOID DISCUSSING, A EURO-ARAB "CHARTER" WHICH WOULD ESTABLISH THE PRINCIPLE OF PAY AND EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS FOR ARAB WORKERS IN THE COMMUNITY EQUAL TO THOSE EXTENDED EUROPEAN WORKERS.

D) COMMERCE. THE ARABS RENEWED THEIR REQUEST FOR PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT WITH THE COMMUNITY TO REMOVE THE TARIFF AND NON-TARIFF BARRIERS TO THEIR EXPORTS TO THE COMMON MARKET, WITHOUT RECIPROCITY, AS WELL AS THE STABILIZATION OF THEIR EXPORT EARNINGS. THESE REQUEST WERE "OBVIOUSLY NOT ACCEPTABLE TO THE EUROPEAN SIDE AND NO CONCESSIONS WERE MADE."VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PLANNING MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ROME18499
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750440-1003
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751227/aaaaaxyp.tel
Line Count: 221
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ROME 16874, 75 ROME 18181
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <15 OCT 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE: THE LAST SESSION, AND THE NEXT
TAGS: PFOR, EG, TC, GE, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006